

**EARL BLUMENAUER**  
THIRD DISTRICT, OREGON

COMMITTEES:  
**TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HIGHWAYS, TRAMIT AND PIPELINES  
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
RAILROADS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3703**

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2446 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4611  
FAX: (202) 226-8941

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
729 N.E. OREGON STREET  
SUITE 115  
PORTLAND, OR 97232  
(503) 231-2300  
FAX: (503) 230-5413

website: blumenauer.house.gov

June 1, 2007

Mr. Stephen J. Wright  
Administrator  
Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)  
905 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Steve:

I was surprised and disappointed to learn that BPA intends to move forward with issuing its Regional Dialogue policy and Record of Decision (ROD) in the very near future. Last month's rulings by the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals have resulted in the suspension of the residential exchange benefit program and launched the region into a period of great uncertainty regarding BPA's benefits. The consequence of the court's decision is that electricity rates for residential and small farm customers will increase by 13% beginning in June, jeopardizing fair and equitable access to the region's power benefits for roughly 1.2 million Oregon households.

As I mentioned to you in our most recent conversation, resolving the residential exchange benefit problem is a top priority for a majority of Oregonians. It seems ill advised to rush ahead with making long term commitments at a time when we may need maximum flexibility to provide an equitable solution. Lack of a consensus also undermines, I believe, our ability in Congress to retain the power system's overall benefit for the region in the future.

I urge you in the strongest terms to maintain maximum flexibility at this time and not to move ahead with securing long term commitments until we are able to reach a fair conclusion with the residential exchange program.

Sincerely,

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress